

Quarterly List of WGBH-TV Programming Providing the Most Significant Treatment of Community Issues - WGBH-TV (October – December 2008)

I. Education/Schools/Youth

Greater Boston, L 11/26/08 7pm, 30 min

Northeastern University President Joseph Aoun discusses the challenges facing higher education institutions during uncertain economic times. The financial crisis is causing many universities to “tighten their belts” – which may include delaying expansion projects, imposing hiring freezes and cutting programs.

Maria Hinojosa: One-on-One: Tony Plana L 12/30/08 7:30pm, 30 min

Cuban actor and director. Tony Plana, most well known as Ugly Betty’s dad, is co-founder and executive artistic director of the East L. A. Classic Theatre, a group dedicated to serving the Latino community through educational outreach programs and bi-lingual productions of traditional and contemporary classics.

Basic Black: Conversation and Poetry w/ Elizabeth Alexander, L 10/16/08 7:30pm, 30 min

Poet Elizabeth Alexander, finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2006, is a professor of African American Studies at Yale University. Alexander discusses the importance of language and other artistic expression in the composition of a poem.

II. Housing/Urban Development

Greater Boston, L 10/07/08 7pm, 30 min

Rep. Barney Frank was a key player in the charge for the newly passed bailout. Frank said yesterday the GOP attacks on Democrats over the nations’ housing crisis is a veiled, racially motivated attack on the poor.

Greater Boston, L 11/13/08 7pm, 30 min

As the housing prices have dropped the number of “underwater” mortgages has increased. An “underwater” homeowner owes more money on the their mortgage than their home is currently worth.

Life a House Built, L 12/22/08 9pm, 60 min

This documentary film tells the extraordinary story of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter’s 25-year involvement with Habitat for Humanity. With its humble origins in New York City to the global reach it has today. An inspiring story of how one man’s inability to ignore the vast need he encountered has since brought thousands of strangers together from across the globe and changed the lives of thousands more.

Basic Black: A Conversation with Author Cora Daniels, L 11/27/08 7:30pm, 30 min

Cora Daniels argues in her book, GhettoNation: A Journey Into the Land of Bling and the Home of the Shameless, ghetto isn’t about where you live, but how you live. The concept

of ghetto has permeated the popular culture across race and how this mindset impacts communities of color.

III. Public Safety/Crime/Justice

Greater Boston, L 10/01/08 7pm, 30 min

Del Valle Settlement – Yesterday, the family of Milena Del Valle’s reached a settlement with the last of the defendants in the family’s civil lawsuit. The family reached a \$28.09 million settlement with 15 parties named in the wrongful death lawsuit.

Greater Boston, L 10/06/08 7pm, 30 min

Steven Odom Anniversary – On Saturday, over 100 people gathered to pay tribute to fallen Dorchester teen Steven Odom. Odom was killed one year ago when he was struck by stray bullets close to his home. His murder remains unsolved, despite the public outcry over his death.

Now on PBS, N 11/21/08 8:30pm, 30 min

What role did the credit rating agencies play in the current economic crisis? A former managing director at Standard & Poor’s speaks out on U.S. television for the first time about how he was pressured to compromise standards in a push for profits.

IV. Needs of Special Interest Groups

Greater Boston, L 11/10/08 7pm, 30 min

On Tuesday, voters in California passed Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment that overturns the state Supreme Court ruling to legalize same-sex marriage. The amendment passed with 52% of the vote.

Greater Boston, L 11/05/08 7pm, 30 min

Barack Obama’s historic victory last night opened a new chapter in America’s history, while closing an old one. By electing the first African-American president, the country took a huge step towards shattering the racial barrier.

Latinos ‘08, N 10/08/08 9pm, 60 min

Latinos ’08 examines this unprecedented 2008 election through the prism of ethnics politics.

Greater Boston, L 10/21/08 7pm, 30 min

Massachusetts Ballot Question 3 proposes to ban dog racing in the commonwealth by 2010. Supporters say dog racing is a cruel and inhumane sport that is harmful to racing dogs’ health. Proponents counter that racing dogs are cared for well, and that a dog racing ban will cost roughly 1,000 jobs.

V. Employment/Unemployment/Poverty

Greater Boston, L 11/11/08 7pm, 30 min

Massachusetts is just beginning to see unemployment rates rise after adding jobs for most of the past year. This week several Massachusetts companies will cut jobs, including Fidelity Investments of Boston which plans to cut 1,300 jobs worldwide.

American Experience, N 11/10/08 9pm, 60 min

This film chronicles the year the boom went bust through the words and experiences of the descendants of these titans of finance. While the market was rising, presidents and economists confidently predicted American would soon enter a time when there would be no more poverty, no more depressions – a “New Era” when everyone could be rich. Instead, it was the rich who became richer. “The Crash of ‘29” captures the unbounded optimism of and age, at a time when the stock market promised permanent prosperity.

Now on PBS N 11/14/08 8:30pm, 30 min

Can something as common as building materials represent an opportunity to create jobs, help the needy, and save the planet? NOW looks at two “green projects keeping furniture, paint, cabinets, and other building supplies out of landfills and getting them into the hands of those who need them most. Will they be devastated by the economic meltdown, or do they signal a possible way out?

VI. Environment/Ecology

Adirondacks, N 11/17/08 2am, 120 min

The Adirondack Park sprawls across six million acres of Upstate New York. The program explores this remarkable region and reveals a delicate and dynamic relationship between progress and preservation.

Journey to Planet Earth N 10/08/08 10pm, 60 min

This episode is a global investigation of why and how nearly 50 percent of the world’s animals may become extinct over the next 25 years. The program is also a visual celebration of the natural world, and features stories of hope and personal courage.

VII. Medical and Mental Health/Social Services

Now on PBS, N 10/24/08 8:30pm, 30 min.

By the year 2020, a nationwide shortage of up to 500,000 trained nurses could mean that hundreds of thousands of patients will receive less attention and substandard treatment. Just as alarming, fewer nurses are choosing to teach the next generation of professionals, resulting in tens of thousands of applicants being turned away from the nation’s nursing schools.

Nova, N 11/25/08 8pm, 60 min

The world's oceans are in trouble. Warming seas and man-made pollutants are combining to unleash toxic algae blooms that are decimating whales, sea lions and other marine mammals.

Scientific American Frontiers, N 12/16/08 2am, 60 min

Alan Alda investigates how people create memories – and how as they age, memories become slippery and elusive, sometimes vanishing forever.

VIII. Economy/Business

Greater Boston, L 10/07/08 7pm, 30 min

Ballot Question One – a controversial ballot measure proposes repealing the state income tax. If it passes – state agencies could face large budget cuts, with significant hits to the State Police, DA offices, courts, prisons, state parks, the RMV, mental health services and environmental programs.

Greater Boston, L 10/08/08 7pm. 30 min

Gov. Deval Patrick discusses the state of the Massachusetts economy amid an uncertain financial crisis. Last week, Patrick asked state officials to meet with him to discuss proposed budget cuts – including the dismantling of the Turnpike Authority.

Greater Boston, L 10/15/08 7pm, 30 min

A panel of experts weigh the damage from Gov. Deval Patrick's budget cut announcement.

IX. Family/Morality/Religion

Greater Boston, L 10/09/08 7pm, 30 min

Linda Corley discusses her new book, "The Kennedy Family Album: Personal Photos of America's First Family." The book includes photographs taken by Bob Davidoff, who spent nearly 50 years recording the Kennedy clan's private moments.

Cemetery Special, N 10/19/08 7pm, 60 min

Producer Rick Seback and his team take viewers on a tour of just a few American cemeteries that are full of sculpture, history, trees and flowers, granite monuments, interesting stories and fascinating people, some of them alive and many dead.

Bill Moyers Journal, N 12/27/08 5am, 60 min

Bill Moyers Journal presents the film "Beyond Our Differences" which explores the common threads that unify the world's religious traditions. In "Beyond Our Differences," religious leaders, politicians and luminaries in their fields give voice to the positive effects of spirituality and morality, focusing on commonalities spanning all faiths.